

Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention

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Topic Area: Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention

Action Item

Expand the use of Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) and LandView electronic software systems to support environmental justice communities.

Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office

The Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) software, designed for use in emergency planning and response, is being issued in an updated version for Windows. LandView, the CD-ROM reference atlas that combines maps with demographic and economic census data along with EPA facility databases, is scheduled for release in April 1995. CEPPO is preparing related communications materials and will announce and distribute LandView. The Headquarters CEPPO will train the Regions in use of the system, and the Regions will train States and local groups in its application. The sets of 11 LandView disks are now in production and will be available for purchase through the Department of Commerce. CEPPO is making LandView available at no charge to certain audiences and is currently examining the most appropriate ways to deliver the system to communities with environmental justice concerns.

Completed Milestones

- 4/95 Began production of LandView disks and related outreach materials.
- 4/95 Planned LandView training session for Federal agencies involved with the Interagency Task Force on environmental justice, to be held at the National Archives and Records Administration in May 1995.

Contact

Tony Jover, (202) 260-1448

Region 1

Region 1 has conducted CAMEO training to create a cadre of certified CAMEO-DOS instructors in New England. The new instructors are scheduling CAMEO courses over the next fiscal year.

Completed Milestones

- 1/95 Conducted CAMEO training in Vermont that included environmental justice students.

Contact

Leonard B. Wallace IV, (617) 860-4694

Region 2

Region 2 is developing a pilot environmental justice outreach module that demonstrates LandView to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) and community groups and explains community right-to-know information. Regional staff received a test set of LandView disks, and they are becoming familiar with the system. Region 2 is currently selecting a community for the pilot and developing an environmental justice outreach strategy.

Contact

John Higgins, (908) 906-6194

Region 5

Region 5 staff are working on a pilot project to apply LandView at several sites. Region 5 has been mapping locations in two counties on the Mississippi River to learn whether facilities are concentrated in areas of environmental justice concern.

Completed Milestones

1/95 Completed assembling database for mapping project.

Contact

Mark Horwitz, (312) 353-9045

Action Item

Work with affected environmental justice communities to explain community right-to-know information.

Region 4

Region 4 is working to fully integrate environmental justice concerns into preparedness and prevention activities. Efforts include coordinating activities with State Emergency Response Committees (SERCs) and LEPCs, targeting geographical environmental justice areas, developing a target list for chemical safety audits, and conducting educational outreach activities.

Contact

Bill Taylor, (404) 347-3555, x6908

Region 6

Region 6 sponsored and held a State-wide conference for LEPCs near the New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, industrial corridor that brought together regional

experts in the fields of toxicology, hazard analysis, and emergency response procedures. The purpose of the conference was to address the broad needs of LEPCs, including the integration of environmental justice representatives into their membership. A responsible party funded the conference as part of the settlement of an enforcement action.

Completed Milestones

9/94 Sponsored conference for LEPCs.

Contact

Jim Staves, (214) 665-2277

Region 7

Region 7 is working to incorporate environmental justice considerations into its preparedness and prevention program. In this effort, Region 7 staff analyzed census data and identified the counties in the Region that may have possible environmental justice concerns. In high priority areas, staff are performing chemical safety audits and providing the results of the reports to the appropriate LEPC. Region 7 plans to conduct education outreach to LEPCs, SERCs, and Tribal Emergency Response Commissions.

Completed Milestones

12/94 Completed report targeting environmental justice areas.

12/94 Developed audit target list.

Contact

Alan Wehmeyer, (913) 551-7336

Region 8

Region 8 has begun extensive efforts to explain and disseminate community right-to-know information to areas with environmental justice concerns. Specific activities included the following:

- Sending letters to 28 Federally recognized Indian Tribes to offer assistance in training, outreach, and exercises in emergency response training;
- Attending a Tribe-sponsored hazardous materials conference on the Flathead Reservation, Montana, to explain chemical accident preparedness and prevention as well as emergency response;
- Conducting several hazardous materials training courses at the “awareness” and “operations” levels for Indian Tribes in South Dakota and Montana;
- Holding a short-term peer exchange work session on emergency planning and response in Kanab, Utah, for Indian Tribes in Utah and Arizona;
- Holding a Tribal environmental summit in Rapid City; the summit included a presentation on preparedness and prevention for all Indian Tribes in Region 8; and

- Assisting the Pine Ridge Reservation with risk analysis for hazardous materials during a site visit.

Completed Milestones

8/94 &

11/94 Sent letters to 28 Indian Tribes.

9/94 Conducted several hazardous material training courses at the “awareness” and “operations” levels.

11/94 Held a short-term peer exchange work session on emergency planning and response in Kanab, Utah.

12/94 Held a Tribal environmental summit including a presentation on preparedness and prevention in Rapid City.

12/94 Assisted the Pine Ridge Reservation with risk analysis.

1/95 Attended a Tribe-sponsored hazardous materials conference on the Flat-head Reservation.

Contact

Eric Steinhaus, (303) 294-7162

Region 10

Region 10 is working with the Colville Tribe and nearby counties on emergency preparedness. In fiscal year 1994, EPA funded a \$10,000 grant through the State of Washington to the Lake Roosevelt Forum, which includes the Colville Tribe. The grant funded a cross-border workshop and vulnerability analysis. The Spokane Tribe also requested EPA assistance to conduct a vulnerability analysis for a smaller but similar area.

Completed Milestones

10/94 Funded cross-border workshop and vulnerability analysis.

3/95 Began plans for vulnerability analysis for the Spokane Tribe.

Contact

Walter Jaspers, (206) 553-0285

Action Item

Use the chemical safety audit program to promote environmental justice.

Region 1

Region 1 conducted a full-scale chemical safety audit at a minority-owned small business in Belmont, Massachusetts. Regional specialists provided recommendations for preventing the inadvertent mixing of acids and cyanide solutions that release toxic

hydrogen cyanide gas. These recommendations, which included information on safety criteria and environmental regulations, proved of economic benefit to the company.

Completed Milestones

10/94 Conducted chemical safety audit.

Contact

Ray DiNardo, (617) 860-4694

Region 3

Region 3 has fully incorporated its environmental justice checklist items into its chemical safety audit program. Region 3 staff conducted a small-scale safety audit as a pilot for the environmental justice checklist in conjunction with the Chester Initiative, which deals with long-term environmental exposures and risks.

Contact

Kevin Koob, (215) 597-9355

Region 6

The Region 6 Contingency Planning Section in the Environmental Services Division conducts four chemical safety audits per year. The audits focus on process safety at facilities, emergency response procedures, community relations, and programs for accident preparedness and prevention. About 2,000 facilities are eligible for an audit each year, which means a variety of selection criteria must be applied to identify the most appropriate facilities to target. Audit specialists have now begun to use Region 6 environmental justice methodology, which is based on U.S. census data, as an additional criterion for selection of facilities for audits.

Completed Milestones

6/94 Developed selection criteria for audits.

7/94 Selected facilities for quarterly audits.

8/94 Conducted audits.

Contact

Jim Staves, (214) 665-2277

Region 7

By analyzing U.S. census socio-economic data, Region 7 determined the counties with the highest density of minority and economically disadvantaged populations in the Region. By overlaying the location of facilities that are candidates for chemical safety audits, Region 7 staff targeted audits at facilities that may have environmental justice

concerns. These audits verify that facility contingency plans include provisions to protect nearby residents in the event of a chemical emergency.

Completed Milestones

9/94 Prepared list of facilities for chemical safety audits.

9/94 Conducted audits.

Contact

Alan Wehmeyer, (913) 551-7336

Action Item

Send a letter to all governors regarding efforts EPA is making on environmental justice issues and requesting support in this effort.

Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office

The Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO) drafted a letter asking governors to encourage the SERCs and LEPCs to appoint representatives to reflect a broad representation of all populations in local areas, including minority and economically disadvantaged populations. After EPA reviews and comments on the letter, the National Governors Association will review the letter before its distribution to governors.

Contact

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